



Casino and District Family History Group Inc

MAY 2024 – No. 145 – IBSN 0808 19-8535



School of Arts Building, Cnr Walker & Barker Streets, Casino, NSW.
Home of Casino & District Family History Group Inc.

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MEETINGS: Second Wednesday of each month at 10.00am

Room 5, Upstairs School of Arts Building, Walker Street, Casino

Opening Times:

Monday and Friday **CLOSED**
Monday nights only when advertised.
Tuesday and Thursday 10am – 2pm
Wednesdays 12pm – 4pm
Saturdays open 3rd only 9am – 11.30am
Closed mid-December – late January
Open by appointment mid Dec – late Jan

Memberships:

Single \$40
Family \$50 (2 People same address)
Pensioner \$35 Pensioner Couple \$45
Student \$30 (needs to show card)
Joining Fee \$5 All prices include GST
(Membership year Jan to Dec)

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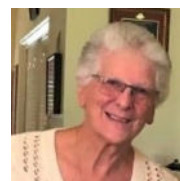
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CASINO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC. COMMITTEE 2024

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Committee Member	Rick Lawrence		



Back row L to R: Jann Rowe, Gary McAteer, Shirlee McPherson, Jo-Anne Wilton, Roseanne Birmingham, Kaylene Morris, Rick Lawrence, Chris Houlihan. Front L to R: Joanne Griffiths, Cherryl Mison, Robyn Nesbitt & Mavis Goodlad. Below: Barb Hollis & Pat McDonald



President's Report – June to August 2024

Our President's report this issue will be a brief overview of our activities and not Barbara's usual detailed report. Barbara is currently unavailable. This report was compiled from our meeting minutes:

13 March – Our AGM was held with all positions being filled. Welcome to our new committee. Members, please feel free to contact the committee should you need research help or have any concerns, comments, or suggestions regarding the operations of the group. We are happy to help.

10 April Meeting – the group's constitution and by-laws are now available on the admin computer. Our camera has been repaired. We will be having lunch at Windara after the May meeting. We were gifted research material and books from the Aub Lavis Estate. A trivia night is anticipated for the 21 September to be held in the Anglican Church Hall.

8 May Meeting – An order of archive boxes was approved for the group to apply jointly with the historical society. These will help safely store some large registers for us and the Express Examiner for the historical society. Our website will soon be re-vamped. Update: All had a lovely lunch at Windara.

BEEF WEEK – It was decided not to have a window display for this year's Beef Week due to the unavailable School of Arts vacant shop. We might be able to open the room on Beef Week Friday.

NICK VINE HALL AWARD 2023 – We have entered our May 2023 newsletter in this competition. Winners will be announced in August at the opening ceremony of National Family History Month.

WATCHING THE WEB – This issue we have two pages (pages 12 & 13) crammed packed with great websites. How to research in Australia and their helpful links have been featured. Members, please look and expand your knowledge as to what is available online and maybe you'll discover something new. - Editor

CORAKI AND SURROUNDS HOTELS - FAMILY BUSINESS – PART 2

Continued from February Issue No. 144 - Written and researched by Tim Smith

Not long after, the hotel returned to direct Nolan ownership when on the 10th August 1937, my great grandfather, Michael Vincent Nolan, William Nolan's cousin, took over the Coraki Hotel. Previously, Michael Vincent Nolan ran the Empire Hotel in Woodburn, now the Rod 'n' Reel, for thirteen years, from 1909 to June 1922, before moving to Queensland. Fig. 11. Before this he was a painter living at the Club Hotel in Coraki where he met his wife, Mary Ann (Polly) whose parents, the Thearle's ran the hotel. In Queensland Michael first ran the Ulster Hotel in Ipswich until February 1924 and then the One Mile Hotel West Ipswich till 1928 when he moved to the Federal Hotel in Leichardt St Spring Hill, Brisbane. They moved back to Swan Bay in 1930 and he returned to his original trade (painter) before taking on his family's old Coraki Hotel from August 1937 until his death in 1939. After his passing, his wife Mary Ann Nolan continued to run the pub until June 1941 when she sold it to John Ware. From then the Coraki Hotel was never to return to being run by our family Nolan nor Thearle side.

Regarding the change in look for the Coraki Hotel, the only reference I can find regarding damage was an article on 4 January 1929 in the Richmond River Herald about a "heavy storm" which damaged many buildings, including "The gable end of an annex at the Coraki Hotel, together with all the glass in the window, was blown out", however photos of the hotel in 1933 still show the original facade Fig. 4. If anyone knows when the roof change was made and why please let me know the details!!! Fig.5 shows the changed look with altered roof as it is today.

The Club Hotel (aka middle pub) was initially built by James Shegog in November 1885 with a closed roof (no gables). Fig. 6. He advertised in July that year he was intending to build a home for his family and obtain a liquor licence, which he did, and then advertised for staff in December that year, as he opened the doors. Oddly at the same time of opening, he advertised the whole establishment to be sold at auction on the 2nd of January 1886! This is when Patrick Quain stepped in and worked to improve the appeal of the hotel. He applied for a billiards license in mid 1886 to compete with the Commercial Hotel and set about a heavy advertising campaign, when he renamed it the Club House Hotel.

1886 was a bit of a boom time in Coraki with many new stores, cottages, and public building going up. P (Patrick?) and John Casey were prominent amongst the builders who were kept busy. John Casey built the general store for Quain next to the hotel. Like the Coraki and Commercial Hotel, many events and activities were held at the Club, from annual sporting festivities such as the regatta and St Patricks day athletics, to public meetings and auctions. In June 1893 Mr. Quain advertised a five-year lease, with option to buy, but on his death, 17th May 1894, he was still the owner. Mrs. Quain managed the business and with Mrs Mobbs at the Commercial Hotel they were two of the prominent publicans who had successfully taken over their deceased husband's business across the Richmond.

After being destroyed by fire on the 21 November 1897, Mrs. Quain continued to operate a temporary bar and accommodate guests in the building next door in Allwood Street despite losing almost everything. On the 4th of February 1898 she advertised for tenders to rebuild. Mrs Quain celebrated the re-opening in early October 1898, and this rebuild is when the new pub received the gables/facade similar to Kyran's hotel. Fig. 7. So, for forty or so years they looked quite similar a key difference being the straight façade décor and the number of support poles - 5x5 on the Coraki balcony and curved façade décor and 7x7 poles for the Club balcony. At the end of November 1898, she sold the new hotel to Mr T. McFadden of Broadwater.

In August 1901 the McFadden's moved to Sydney and Alex Livingstone took on a lease for the business. He held it until 28 December 1903 when, according to a newspaper report in the Richmond River Herald, he transferred the licence to Jason Milgate. The paper then announced on 25th March 1904 that Mr John (Jack) Rodgers, previously at the Royal Hotel Broadwater, had purchased the Club Hotel from Mr J. Milgate. Jack Rodgers was my grandmother's (Kit Klaus nee Nolan) uncle, on the maternal, Thearle side.

On 27th of July 1906 an article in the Times mentions "extensive improvements" Jack Rodgers made, including "carrying his business along Allwood St frontage", with a large billiard room and shop on the ground floor (shop occupied by Mr W. Geddes, tailor) and above them on the 2nd floor, 6 additional bedrooms with extended balcony, making it 7x10 as it is today. On the 28th of February 1908 the paper announced Jack was departing to take up dairy farming and that James Richard Thearle, formerly of the Railway Hotel in Iluka (Jack's father-in-law and my great, great grandfather) had purchased the Club Hotel. Fig. 8. After some months of travel, the Rodgers then bought the Commercial Hotel in Mullumbimby in November 1908.

My great grandparents M.V. Nolan and Mary Ann Thearle were wed in December 1909 and celebrated at the Club hotel where both were living. Newspaper articles mention "J.R. Thearle's Club Hotel" from 1908 to mid 1913 after which another son-in-law, Fred Buckland took over, as from May 1913, the Thearle's had purchased the Commonwealth Hotel in Casino. In 1923 when Fred was then running the Coraki Hotel, John Rodgers (Jack Rodger's son) - J.R. Thearle's grandson and my grandmother's cousin became the owner of the Club Hotel.

To finish the history on the Club Hotel - On 16th of March 1925 James Deegan purchased the licence, with MJ O'Keefe taking over in May the following year. Mr O'Keefe remained until 11th of June 1928 when Henry Bishop stepped in briefly, with Denis Twomey running it from 9th April 1929 until in March 1934, Mr Harold John Birmingham, age 23 (a distant cousin) then became the licensee. Harold held the pub for just over a year and handed it briefly to Sydney Smith, who after only seven months, handed the keys back to John Rodgers again on the 19th of November 1935. He remained with the Club another ten years, passing it to Roy Arkinstall on 19th of July 1945 and then Robert A. B. McEwan, in June 1946, took over.

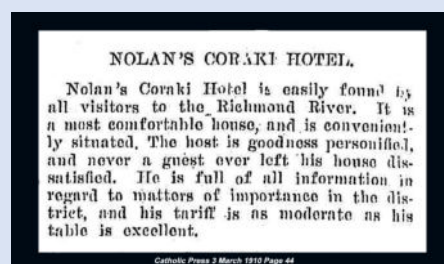
After this the hotel passed through hands quite regularly, mainly with folks coming in from Queensland and Sydney, with no more of my relations involved! The other long-run pub in town, from five in history, was the Commercial Hotel (top pub) established by James Grady in 1879 and opened 1880. Fig. 9. This was the only one I had no family connection to, but I was intrigued by its history! Mr Walter Thomas Mobbs was handed the hotel in April 1883 when he married James Grady's daughter, Anne (Annie). Annie Mobbs then ran the hotel after her husband's death in late 1889. In May 1903 she had Mr J. Cawley of Lismore build a new palatial two-storey hotel next door to the existing single storey. In 1905 she then demolished and rebuilt the original single storey hotel, adding another storey to the accommodation in readiness for travellers on the new Coraki-Casino railway. After all her many years of hard work, Annie's beautiful hotel was destroyed in the fire of January 1911, when almost the entire block burnt down. Although I'm not related to her, I am in awe of her business prowess and resilience – what an incredible businesswoman! It was rebuilt in 1912 and continued trading until 1963. In 1964 it again burnt to the ground and was never rebuilt. At that time, it was owned by Savins.

The last of the five hotels was the Royal Hotel in East Coraki, which James Milgate was once again a prominent owner of. There isn't much information available on this hotel, but early newspaper articles suggest James Milgate was one of the first proprietors in 1886, or at least the first to advertise, followed by Mr J. O'Connor. Advertisements in 1888 showed the owner as Mr George Cooper.

Finally, to my last known hotel connection in the area, at this stage, is the Tatham Hotel where my great, great grandfather Michael Nolan, Kyran and Thomas' big brother, settled. His daughter Alice ran this one with her husband, George Stanley Marsh, previously owned by George's father, Thomas Henry Marsh with a few others in between. Fig. 12 is the hotel with George, his wife Alice, Mary Riordan and Kitty Nolan and probably George and Alice's son George Anthony. There were a few further family connections to pubs in larger towns such as Grafton, Casino and Ballina, but they might be for another time and other groups!



Images of pubs used with permission from ANU Open Resource library, Noel Butlin Archives - I do not own these images. Source: openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au



LION to CHARCOAL - A CASINO HOTEL CHANGES ITS NAME

CASINO'S "CHARCOAL INN" - *Northern Star*, 21 November 1947, page 4

These premises at Casino are officially known as "The Charcoal Inn." Originally "The Lion Hotel," the name was subsequently changed to that of "The South Casino Hotel." Several years later, on October 15, 1941, the major portion of the building was destroyed by fire, only the bar section being saved by the brigade.

The war being then in progress, rebuilding operations were out of the question and, for this reason, nothing beyond some repairs to the bar have since been attempted. The Licensing Court, knowing the position, has renewed the licence from year to year. It was not long before someone named the building "The Charcoal Inn."

It was on August 9, 1945, that an application was made to the Licensing Court to have the name changed officially, from that of "The South Casino Hotel" to "The Charcoal Inn." When the application came before the Licensing Magistrate (Mr. G. L. Berry) he was inclined to regard it as frivolous but, with a shrug of his shoulders, said: "Well, if that's the name they want they may as well have it"— and "The Charcoal Inn" it is.



Above: The Lion Hotel, before and after the fire.

OBJECTION TO CHARCOAL INN

CASINO, Thursday.—In Casino Licensing Court this morning formal objection was made by Sgt. D. R. Rowlinson against an application by Charles Milton to temporarily carry on business at the site known as the "Charcoal Inn", South Casino.

The application will again come before the court early in December. In the meantime the premises will be used as previously.

St. Rowlinson said the police had received numerous complaints about the building, which had a shabby appearance. It had been in that state since 1941.

Messrs. S. C. Mitchell and J. Edmunds, who appeared for the licensee and owner respectively, said new premises were to be built when the materials were available. It was considered it would be wasteful and expensive to erect a temporary establishment at a cost of £2000 or £3000, which would then have to be pulled down to make way for a new building.

Northern Star, Friday 21 November 1947, page 4

CHARCOAL INN NOT ENOUGH — Casino Tuesday — The owner-licensee of the Charcoal Inn, South Casino, Mathew Patrick Dougherty, was granted six months in which to build a new hotel by the Richmond River Licensing Court today. He was ordered to build at least a 10-bedroom building. Cost of this is estimated at £59,000. The hotel at South Casino, owned by Dougherty, was burned down in 1941, and since then bar business only has been carried on. The hotel name was changed to Charcoal Inn because it was built on the sight of the fire with material salvaged from the fire. — *Courier Mail*, 23 July 1952, page 5



Above: The new rebuilt Charcoal Inn — Courtesy ANU

BONALBO, ITS SHOWGROUND AND THE FIRST SHOW

The rural town of Bonalbo is located 761 km north of Sydney via the New England Highway and the Bruxner Highway. It lies 98 km east of Tenterfield and 69 km west of Casino. The district surrounding Bonalbo was inhabited by the Gidabal, a dialect group of the Bundjalung people, prior to the arrival of Europeans and it is from their language that the town's name, 'bunawalbu' meaning 'bloodwood tree', is derived.

In 1841 the first European settler in the district was John Donald McLean a Scotsman from the Isle of Skye. He drove sheep from the Hunter Valley to the Bonalbo district where he established the 'Bunalbo' or Duck Creek run. Ownership of the run changed hands several times from 1853. By the 1880s cedar cutters had moved into the valley and by 1910 there were about 100 selectors in the district. The village of Bonalbo slowly grew on the banks of the Peacock Creek. In 1911 land was purchased from Paddy MacNamee, the owner of 'Bunalbo' run, along with a number of buildings which formed the basis of the town. The selectors tended to engage in mixed farming with a mixture of beef cattle, dairying and pig raising. Source: [Bonalbo, NSW - Aussie Towns](#)

In August of 1923 Bonalbo district farmers held a meeting to form an agricultural society with the idea of holding a show the following year. A provisional committee with Mr. W. R. Cooke as president was elected. - *Northern Star*, Wednesday 29 August 1923, page 4.

Twelve months later the Lands Department granted the committee's application for part of Reserve 3685, Parish of Robertson. The original land size was just over 12 acres. This was increased to a little over 18 acres by 1931. The following lists the Gazetted dates and sizes of portions.

18 February 1927 – Portion 47 - 12 acres 2 roods 30 perches

1 February 1929 – Portion 129 - 2 acres 0 roods 20 perches

16 January 1931 – Portion 135 - 4 acres 0 roods 4 perches

Seven of the newly formed Bonalbo Agricultural Society committee members were named on the first Land Grant title deed as Trustees. They were as follows:

1. William Robert Cooke

2. Patrick McNamee

3. Anthony James Brown

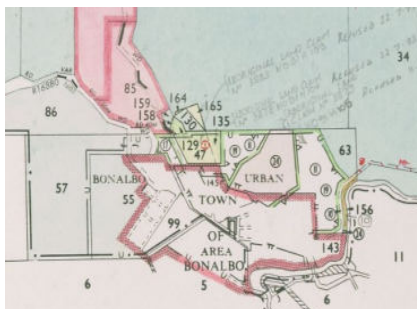
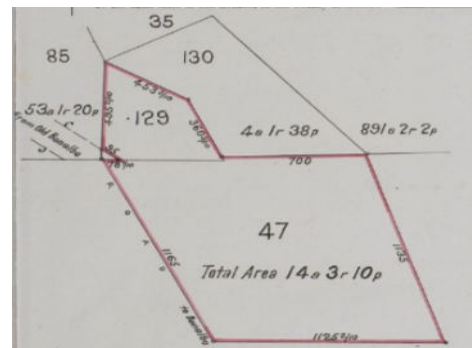
4. Norman Johnston

5. Robert Thomas Hurbert Armstrong

6. Charles Waller

7. Walter George Edward Johnston

Then over a period the showground was expanded further with the acquisition of Portions: 130, 158, 164 and 165.



Above Right: Plan of original grant lots 129 and 47. Left: Part of an early Bonalbo town plan showing in centre the various blocks 129, 47, 130, 135, 158, 164 & 165 acquired for the showground. Right: How the showground site layout and blocks look today.



**27-28 May 1926 - FIRST BONALBO SHOW - Exceeds All Expectations.
MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY OF PRODUCE - Interesting Ring Events
Initial Exhibition Crowned with Success.**

Away from the towns, nestling amongst the hills, lies the township of Bonalbo. A decade ago, it was only known as a cattle station. Today it is a prosperous producing centre. Much has been heard of this wonderful place, and, indeed, it must be called wonderful. Nestling amongst the hills, with Haystack Mountain watching over its progress, Bonalbo is on the right road of advancement.

Much has been heard from the residents about the wonderful country they had at Bonalbo, and unless one knew the place there would be an inclination to doubt their word and ask them to deliver the goods. They can deliver them, and they did at the first Bonalbo show of the Agricultural and Industrial Society, which opened on Thursday, and concluded yesterday.

Months ago, those who had land at Bonalbo realised what the district could do as an agricultural centre, and they devoted their energies to the building up of a Show Society, which is the best advertisement a district can receive. Enthusiastic men set to work, and today they have as members every man in the district. Their initial show was a huge success, and there was not a man that did not work with a will to make it so. There were many features lacking that are associated with most shows, but Bonalbo, on its first effort, has had a better show than many a larger district,

Cattle and swine exhibits were missing, but this was not due to any disinterestedness on the part of the residents of the district. The show dates were arranged, and the show had to be held. In the centre of virgin timber country then new ground is situated, and all the trees had to be cleared. The men of Bonalbo set to, cleared the ring, and fenced it from the timber that grew on the grounds. They also erected a pavilion and offices that are a credit to the township. The ring was still a little uneven, due to stump holes, but that is a detail that will be remedied by the time of the next show.

The difficulties that beset the committee were many, and they were not easily surmounted, but an undaunted courage, and every man working with a will, brought about a most successful first Bonalbo Show. To those from other parts, what was staged was a revelation. "Hats off to Bonalbo" It is to be regretted that Mr. M. Flannery (Minister for Railways) did not visit Casino a week later. The opportunity would have been seized to have taken him to Bonalbo. There he would have seen with his own eyes the wealth of the district, and it is more than likely that his reply meant the Casino-Bonalbo railway would have been altered in favour of the line.

It was claimed that produce of all kinds could be grown at Bonalbo. The claim was proved at the show. In the pavilion there was a collection of produce that would beat that grown in most agricultural centres of the State. Pumpkins, melons, potatoes, and other products of the land, including lucerne, oats, wheat, rye, maize, sorghum, saccaline, and natural grasses. The competition was keen, showing that all farmers in the Bonalbo district realise that the soil is capable of intensive working. One prominent Bonalbo man informed the "Courier" last week that they could grow pumpkins as big as tubs. There were none of that size in the show, but many of them were very close to the dimensions of a tub. The table varieties were particularly good.

In an annex to the pavilion there were one-man farm displays, set up by Messrs. Norman Johnston, N. C. Gray, and A. J. Brown. In these exhibits, the wealth of the district in an agricultural sense was displayed. The arrangement was most effective. Green maize, in cob, and matured corn, the stalks well over 12 feet in height, formed the frontal setting, while on shelves and on the walls, there was arranged a collection of products equal to those seen in the big district exhibits of the capitals. There was maize, in the young, green stage, just about to ripen, and matured. The threshed grain, of all varieties, was also shown. Pumpkins, marrows, cucumbers, cabbage, beans; in fact, every vegetable, was shown. Seed of all crops, as well as the green growth, was exhibited, and the bundles of wheat, lucerne, barley, rye, etc., revealed the possibilities of the Bonalbo district.

In the pavilion the timber wealth of the district was revealed to the visitor by a neat, compact, and nicely designed display by the Bonalbo Timber Company. The many hardwoods and softwoods that grow in the district were shown in the dressed and rough state.

The ladies of the district helped the Society to make a success of the show. In the pavilion they had arranged a display of fancywork that was wonderful, and a reflex of the handicraft of the ladies. Bowls of choice flowers, including many beautiful rose blooms, added considerably to the pleasant sight that greeted the visitor on entering the pavilion. The culinary efforts of the ladies were also prominent, and Bonalbo must be classed as a good place to go for a wife if good cooking is desired. It was another earnest of the ladies' desire to help make the show a success. The scholars attending the school had a fine display of schoolwork, evidence of their intention to make Bonalbo a better place.

All the exhibits were artistically arranged, and in the laying out of the pavilion display, the Bonalbo people certainly beat those responsible for the pavilion display at other district shows. An admirable luncheon was provided, the booths being, conducted by the Society, in conjunction with the Bush Nursing Association. There was no dearth of trade displays.

The motor car people were to the fore. Messrs. Dalgety's, Ltd., had their large marquee erected, and displayed Essex and Hudson cars. Mr. W. Corbett demonstrated the features of the Rugby, and the Overland was also represented.

Mr. W. G. E. Johnston had I.H.L. machinery on the ground. Mr. Jas. Compton and Mr. O. R. Whitlock both had displays of pianos and other musical instruments, and the selections played during the day considerably brightened the proceedings. Mr. W. R. Cooke (the president) and the energetic secretary (Mr. W. G. E. Johnston) worked with a will to ensure the smooth running of everything. Mr. Johnston was the right man in the right place. He was called upon to handle all kinds of questions and difficulties which attend a show, but everything was arranged with courtesy and expedition.

The absence of any cattle sections was noticeable, but when the second annual show is held at Bonalbo the cattle will be there. Inability to prepare pens in time precluded the classes being entered this year. In the ring events there was good competition, and some exciting moments occurred during the camp draft. The cattle were wild and the presence of so many people made them timid. They rushed in all directions, several taking the rails in real jumper style. The jumping was good, and the Society have erected several fine barricades from timber that was growing in the ring, which has a circle of a quarter of a mile. The ground is situated very close to the town and, with the improvements contemplated, should be in excellent condition for the second annual show. There were visitors from all centres, including Casino, Lismore, Bangalow, Grafton, Tenterfield, Kyogle, Woodenbong, Urbenville, and Old Koreelah.

Mr. N. C. Gray's single farm exhibit won the award. He showed over 50 varieties of produce. Mr. Norman Johnston won for the best collection of cow and pig fodders, showing twenty different varieties.

*Casino and Kyogle Courier and North Coast Advertiser,
Saturday 29 May 1926, page 2*



Above Bonalbo Showground circa 1939
NSW Govt. Printing Office Lismore - Glass Plate negative
NSW State Records Office collection

Left: George & Joseph Little at the first Bonalbo Show 1926
standing in front of some of the cars parked around the ring
Image courtesy member Kay Francis.

AUSTIN BEDE PRATT - A CASINO ANZAC – Part 1

Researched & written by Shirlee McPherson



Austin Bede Pratt was born in Casino NSW in 1894. The youngest of ten children, his parents were George Pratt and Eleanor (nee Boyd). George Pratt was born on “Tomki” station, Casino in 1850. He was a stockman, bullock driver and timber contractor. The other Pratt children were Walter Thomas, John Boyd “Jack”, Arthur Charles, Francis George “Frank”, Alfred Ernest, Stephen, Andrew Herbert, Blanche Hannah and Clarice Eleanor. George and Eleanor raised their family on a small selection they named “Loyola” at North Casino.

The Defence Act of 1909 empowered the Commonwealth Government to establish Australia’s first universal training scheme, which came into operation in 1911, requiring Australian males aged between 18 and 26 to perform militia service within Australia and its territories. The legislation provided for three levels of training. Junior cadets for 12–14-year-old boys, Senior cadets for 14–18-year-old males and home defence militia, officially known as Commonwealth Military Forces, for 18-26 year old men.

On 1 July 1911, while working at the “Express” office in Casino delivering newspapers, Austin aged 17 became a Senior Cadet (F Company). When he turned eighteen Austin was eligible for the Commonwealth Military Forces which required 16 days paid training per year, however the job hours and living distance from town frequently prevented him from meeting these obligations and Austin often found himself in court, either fined or held in custody until the lost training hours were made up and fines paid. Despite these setbacks he completed a total of 3 years of training before war broke out in Europe in 1914. Undoubtably those early years certainly would have given Austin a strong foundation for what was to come.

At the onset of the 1st World War in 1914 Austin, aged 20, was one of the first six Casino lads to volunteer. He enlisted in the AIF on 26 August 1914 (Reg No: 702) his unit being the 9th Battalion. Two days later Austin and the other Casino boys departed for Brisbane. There they spent several weeks preparing for the conflict in Europe. They then boarded troop ship S. S. Omrah [HMAT A5] and left Brisbane for Albany, WA on the 24th September 1914 where the Omrah joined more troop ships. The fleet departed Albany on 31 October 1914. This was the first Australian contingent to leave Australia to participate in the conflict alongside New Zealand and Britain.

The 9th Battalion took part in the landing at Gallipoli on 25th April 1915. The following letter from Austin to his parents gives a graphic description of the lead up to the landing, the landing itself and what was to follow for Austin soon after.

Casino & Kyogle Courier & North Coast Advertiser, 7 July 1915 page 6

A Casino Soldier’s Experiences at the Front – Wouldn’t have Missed it for a Thousand.

“I suppose you will be expecting to hear from me, and I suppose you will have been wondering where I have got to. Well to tell the whole story I suppose I will have to start at the beginning of it. First of all we got orders to strike camp at Mena and we marched to Cairo where we arrived at 10:00 PM. Of course we started late. Then we got on board the troop ship Ionian and we sailed next day. We did not know where we were going until we were told we were going to Lemos Island after we were two days out. This is a Turkish island, but it is occupied by the Greeks as the Turks would not lay claim to it. We landed and went into camp for seven weeks and it was a very cold place. Then we got further orders to board the troop ship Maldo on 8th of April and we stayed in the harbour until the 24th of April. Then we sailed for the Dardanelles at about 2:00 PM on Saturday.

The Third Brigade had to land 1st and get a footing for the division. This had to take place at about daylight which it did. Well, we sailed to Tenerdos Island, where we arrived at midnight; then we got on to torpedo boats and steamed for the peninsula. We started the land just before daylight and got out of the torpedo boats into rowing boats. When we got within about 200 yards of the shore the Turks opened fire on us and there were about 6 machine guns firing on us as well. Anyhow we got ashore with only a few wounded and we charged

the Turks out of their trenches at the point of the bayonet, and they went for their lives. They retreated about four miles, and we kept them going back. Well, the landing was bad enough, God knows, but we had the worst to come. At about 8:00 am they started to shell us, and I'll tell you a fellow feels queer when one of those bursts over your head. They have the range of every hill and knew exactly where to put the shells. Harry Anderson and myself stayed together in the firing line until 1:00 pm and they kept the shells going all the time but they were bursting about half a mile behind us. This was to prevent our supports coming up. We were told that we were cut off from the main body and that the Turks were nearly all around us and were ordered to retreat. There were about 40 of us started back but Lord how did we catch it. The shrapnel was bursting over my head. All the time you can hear a shell coming and it gives you time to get flat on the ground. Harry Anderson and I kept doing this and I can tell you we had some narrow escapes. I had the casing of a shell land within 6 inches of my head and the other poor fellows were getting hit all around us and we kept running and getting down about every 25 yards. At last, we reached the beach after passing hundreds of dead and wounded. There we were employed carrying boxes of ammunition down the beach to a safer place and we had to guard it all night.

On Monday evening the 26th they rounded up the 9th battalion and there were about 200 men and five officers left. Then I took us back to reinforce the right flank. We went up and advanced within 20 yards of our trenches when the Turks played machine guns on us, and they kept it going for three hours. We had to lay flat all this time as it was impossible to lift your head an inch for the bullets were swooping over us, and the whistle of them would nearly deafen you. We had to wait until dark and crawl back where we made trenches and slept for the night. Harry Anderson got wounded this evening in the leg with shrapnel.

On Tuesday we were carrying ammunition to the firing line and the chaps that were with me felt a bit tired and so did I, so we sat down on a dugout hole. All at once we heard something buzzing in the air and we looked up and saw a flying machine. This was Samson the great English flying man. (Commander Charles R. Samson, Royal Flying Corps.) Presently we heard a great explosion like as if the sky was falling. This was the Queen Elizabeth firing on the Turks. So, after that every time we would see the flying machine, we would sing out. "Look out for the big Lizzie, lads" and we would not have long to wait for the big 15-inch guns to roar.

On Tuesday night (27th) I was taken ill and on Wednesday morning I was worse, so I went to the doctor, and he told me to go to the hospital ship which I did. The boat sailed the next night for Alexandria, and I got worse still, but they could not do anything for me. My temperature was very high, and I got delirious and was that way for two days. I pulled around a little before we got to Alexandria where they transferred all the slightly wounded and me to another hospital ship and sent us to England. It took 12 days to come across and when I arrived here, I could walk about and feel quite well. We landed at Southampton and a hospital train brought us to Birmingham and we went into a hospital called the First Southern General where we are getting well treated.

I suppose by the time this letter reaches you I will be out of the hospital and very likely having a fortnight's holiday. I forgot to tell you how the Australians carried on under fire. Well, they are about the coolest mob ever you did see, and they were frightened of nothing. I can tell you that I was frightened before I got on the shore but after I landed and fixed the bayonet on the rifle, I did not care for anyone and after you fire the first shot fear leaves you altogether. I must now bring my long letter to a close. Remember me to all at home. Hoping you and father are well and I will now close. Goodbye. PS I've had an experience I would not have missed for a thousand pounds."

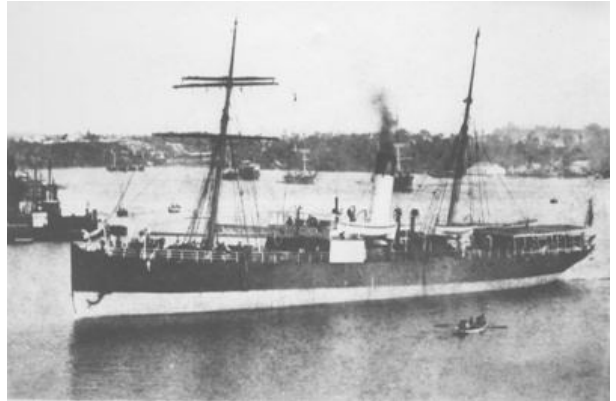
Daily Telegraph, 8 June
1915, page 9
Left: Private A.
B. Pratt (wounded),
Centre: Lance-Corporal
H. N. May (killed),
Right: Private R. C.
Hayden (wounded)



More of Austin's
story is to be
continued in the
August issue of
the *Crossing Place*
- Editor

THE KEILAWARRA DISASTER – 8 December 1886

The Keilawarra was a 200ft (61m) steamer built by J Keys & Sons at Kirkcaldy, Fife in Scotland, which launched in 1878. Commissioned by Melbourne-based shipping magnate William Howard Smith, the Keilawarra arrived in Australia in 1879 and was based in Sydney, plying the coastal routes between Sydney and various ports in Queensland. Reports at the time described her as “handsomely modelled” and “luxurious” with a saloon capable of holding 50 passengers and the cabins “roomy and well-ventilated”. - Troy Lennan – History Editor – *The Daily Telegraph*, 8 December 2016



When the 784 ton iron steamer *Keilawarra* plunged beneath the seas at night on 8 December 1886 it created history. The shocking loss of life rocked maritime centres around Australia. The scale of the disaster, the needless loss of life and tales of cowardice raised alarm, then anger. How could a respected ship, with a well-known skipper be rammed by another vessel when in sight? Why did over forty souls perish in such gruesome and tragic circumstances? Why did so few women survive? These questions are still being answered today with the discovery of the wreck in deep water near North Solitary Island (SE of Woolli and NE of Coffs Harbour) in New South Wales. - NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Many of the passengers aboard SS Keilawarra were just bedding down for the night as it steamed north on its way from Sydney to Brisbane. The captain, Nathan Gough Buttrey, had been warned by his chief officer that there were signs of smoke up ahead, a sure indication that there was another ship somewhere nearby. Scanning the horizon the captain could see no lights but, worried that the smoke was masking another ship, he gave the order to send his vessel hard to port. Unfortunately, this put the Keilawarra directly on a collision course with SS Helen Nicoll, a steamship on its way to Sydney (from the Clarence River). The captain only saw the lights of the other ship at the last moment and had no time to avoid the impact. Buttrey was one of 40 people who lost their lives that night as a result of the incident, which happened 130 years ago today. -Troy Lennan – History Editor – *The Daily Telegraph*, 8 December 2016

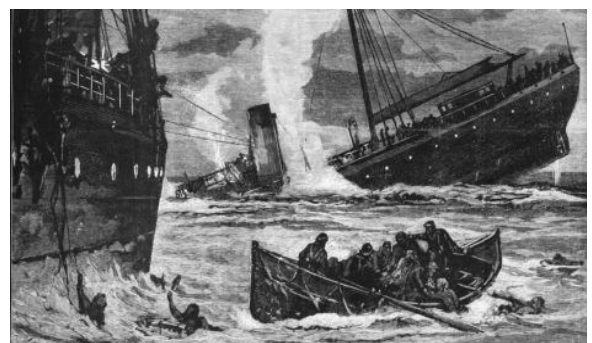
Below are listed related newspaper articles. These include lists of passengers and crew who either survived or perished. The reported numbers of those lost vary throughout the articles.

Evening News, Thursday 9 December 1886, page 5 – “Crew of the Keilawarra”
Telegraph, Thursday 9 December 1886, page 5 – “Latest Particulars” (List of names & crew)
Argus, Friday 10 December 1886, page 8 – “List of the Crew of the Keilawarra”
The Evening Journal, Thursday 9 December 1886, page 2 – “A Sad Shipping Disaster”
Town and Country Journal, Saturday 11 December 1886, Page 11 – “Serious Shipping Disasters”
Brisbane Courier, Tuesday 14 December 1886, page 5 – “Loss of the Keilawarra”
Cairns Post, Thursday 16 December 1886, page 2 – “Wreck of the Keilawarra”
Richmond River Herald, Friday 31 December 1886. page – “Captain Buttrey – Shipmaster and Hero”
The Wagga Wagga Advertiser, Wednesday, 4 January 1887, page 4 -“The Keilawarra Disaster”



Captain Nathan G Buttrey –“If such a thing would happen to me, I could not see my passengers going to their deaths, and powerless to help them, and then permit myself to be rescued. I should either seeing no hope for the women and children under my charge, jump headlong into the sea or go down with my ship”– RRH & NDA, 31 Dec 1886, page 4

A wood engraving of the collision published in *The Illustrated News* - Source undated.



“WATCHING THE WEB”

Researching Your Family Tree in Australia - Links & Guides

<https://www.cyndislist.com/australia/>

<https://www.ancestry.com.au/>

<https://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/family-history>

<https://trove.nla.gov.au>

<https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/search-people/researching-your-family>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/family-history-search/search-guide>

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/family-history/>

<https://www.findmypast.com.au/>

<https://www.sag.org.au/How-do-I-research-my-family-history>

<https://www.myancestors.com.au/>

<https://www.indigenous.gov.au/contact-us/researching-your-family-history>

<https://aiatsis.gov.au/family-history/family-history-sources>

<https://adventistdigitallibrary.org>

The Adventist Digital Library exists to help spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world through direct and unlimited access to Adventist historical materials, as well as current resources available within copyright boundaries. By providing scholars and researchers the tools they need to publish new insights on Adventist theology and history, and by enriching the ministry of teachers, pastors, and parents, we strive to serve as a resource to guide the minds and hearts of the next generation of Christians. By making materials digitally available, we also are preserving historical items to ensure that they will be accessible for future generations.

<https://www.sea.museum/explore/online-exhibitions/waves-of-migration/search-your-family-history>

New South Wales

<https://mhns.wa.gov.au/guides/family-history-guide/>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/family-history-search>

NSW Transcription Services

<https://www.nswtranscriptions.com.au> - A Transcription costs at least 30% less than an official certificate, but contains the same information. Ordering is fast and easy on our secure website. Completed Transcriptions are delivered direct to your email inbox, or by post if you prefer.

<https://joymurrin.com.au/our-services/new-south-wales/> - Joy has over 30 years experience with transcriptions from the early 1990's and in 1995 was appointed as an Accredited Transcription Agent to the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. These years have provided Joy with expertise in understanding registrations and reading old handwriting.

<http://www.marilynrowan.com.au> - About Marilyn Rowan: I became one of the NSW Registry's first Approved Transcription Agents in 1995. Since then I have transcribed hundreds of thousands of records, spoken at seminars and meetings all over NSW and interstate, and helped thousands of people with their research. It is always such a pleasure to meet you all at open days and hear your stories. I continue to supply transcriptions through NSW Family History Transcriptions Pty Ltd and GeniCert (via the Ancestry website). On this site I hope to share some of the things I've learned over the years – hopefully some of it will help you in your own research quest!

Western Australia - <https://www.wa.gov.au/service/justice/civil-law/searching-family-history>

<https://slwa.gov.au/collections/family-history>

<https://www.fhwa.org.au>

Northern Territory - <https://nt.gov.au/law/bdm/search-births-deaths-and-marriages-records>

<https://aiatsis.gov.au/family-history/where-get-help/northern-territory>

Victoria - <https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/research-and-family-history/search-your-family-history>

<https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/family-history>

<https://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/victorianancestors>

Queensland - <https://www.familyhistory.bdm.qld.gov.au/>

<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/collections/family-history/family-history-research-guides>

<https://www.dcssds.qld.gov.au/our-work/multicultural-affairs/multicultural-communities/australian-south-sea-islanders/family-history-research>

Tasmania - <https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm/researching-family-trees>

Registration of births, deaths and marriages began in 1839 in Tasmania, the first Australian colony to take over the function previously done by the Churches.

<https://libraries.tas.gov.au/family-history/>

Libraries Tasmania also provides an online index search for: Births between 1900 to 1921, deaths between 1900 to 1939 and marriages between 1900 to 1930

South Australia - <https://www.archives.sa.gov.au/finding-information/family-history-research>

<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/collections/family-history/tracing-your-family-tree>

Genealogy South Australia – Founded by volunteers in 1973, and now with over 4,300 members, Genealogy SA is South Australia's leading resource for genealogy and family history research and the largest family history society in Australia. - <https://genealogysa.org.au/>

Genealogy SA - Database Updates - 217,000+ new records!

- **Death Registrations (1973 to July 1993)** - We're excited to announce that we have just added 211,000 records to our index of Death Registrations from the South Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Records from 1973 to mid 1993 have been added to the database, with transcriptions available for registrations up to late 1989. You will be able to order transcriptions of death registrations up to late 1989 (Book 883A). Unfortunately, after book 883A, images of registrations are not available, as the process was computerised and there were no paper certificates. We are working on providing access to the images of the certificates up to 1989, and they should be available via the library computers soon. [Click here for more information on this dataset.](#)
- **Newspaper Divorces** - We have recently added almost 2000 records to our index of Newspaper Divorces. This database contains records relating to divorces, with data sourced from Public Notices in Adelaide based newspapers (covering 1859 to 1954) as well as from State Record Divorce petitions (covering 1859 to 1893). The database contains information on the Plaintiff, the Respondent and, where recorded a Co-Respondent. [Click here for more information on this dataset.](#)
- **Quaker Records** - If you have Quakers in your family tree, this is the update for you. We have added more than 4000 records to our index of Society of Friends (Quakers) members and associates, ranging from 1839 to 1925. These records can be found in the "All Other Records" set in our online databases. [Click here for more information on this dataset.](#)

Deaths Notices and Cemeteries

<http://www.ryersonindex.org> <https://austcemindex.com> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial>

MEMBER'S NOTICE BOARD - June – August 2024

ATTENTION MEMBERS: Someone made a membership payment through Southern Cross Credit Union for a couple but neglected to use their name as a reference. Please let us know who you are.

5 June - General Meeting – Visit to Casino Historical Museum – Cost \$5.00 per person

10 July – General Meeting – Activity TBA

9 August – History Cruise on the Clarence River from Yamba to Grafton and return.

More details to come.

14 August – General Meeting – Activity TBA

21 September – Trivia Night. More details next newsletter and by email.

MEMBERSHIPS 2024

Membership payments have been coming in slowly. Our membership has dropped from 105 in 2019 to just 75 for 2024. If you haven't re-joined, this will be your last newsletter.

We will still accept late payments.

RESEARCH – General Information

(per family name e.g.: Mr and Mrs Smith and children)

\$25 for initial enquiry using resources available at rooms with 10 photocopies included in initial fee.

You will be advised of any additional information available over the fee with extra photocopies charged at 20 cents per page. Please supply basic information i.e., BDM dates and parents if known. Inform research officer **exactly** what you are looking for and what you already know so time is not wasted doubling up on research.

Research will not be undertaken until research fee is received. Research may take 4-6 weeks depending on number of enquiries received and availability of the research team.

Research where reference given from book or newsletter: \$5.00 includes 2 photocopies – 20 cents each for any additional pages.

RESEARCH INQUIRIES RECEIVED

Iain: enquired about Wooroowoolgan Station and in particular W J Fanning who was running the station in the 1880's

Patrick: enquiring on his Nan Clare Walsh, descendant of Thaddeus Walsh

Paul: wanted information on Peter & Susan Comiskey who were involved in the timber and dairy industry in the area.

Michael: researching Charles William Rankin, Charles Frederick Rankin and Samuel Crowther

Patrick H: looking for information on Alice Maud Halpin nee Yager b. 1891

If you have any information on these families, please contact the group via our email.

ROSTER

It is the Roster volunteer's responsibility to find a replacement if they cannot do their roster. If you cannot get a replacement for your roster, please ring the rooms or ring Roseanne on 0414 397 474 and leave a message as soon as you know you are not available.

WE URGENTLY NEED ROSTER PEOPLE. We will place you with an experienced person.

June 2024

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
4 th June R Nesbitt, P McDonald	5 th June M Goodlad, C Houlihan, G McAteer	6 th June C Mison, L Reynolds	
11 th June Y Stevenson, M Goodlad, N Cowen	12 th June M Goodlad, C Houlihan, G McAteer	13 th June C Houlihan, N Cowen	15 th June L Yates G Rooney
18 th June J Gorry, K Morris	19 th June R Nesbitt, J Griffiths	20 th June K Francis, Y Downes, J Rowe	
25 th June K Morris, R. Birmingham, L Hill	26 th June R Nesbitt, C Mison	27 th June K Morris, J Wilton	

July 2024

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
2 nd July R Nesbitt, P McDonald	3 rd July M Goodlad, C Houlihan, G McAteer	4 th July C Mison, L Reynolds	
9 th July Y Stevenson, M Goodlad, N Cowen	10 th July M Goodlad, C Houlihan, G McAteer	11 th July C Houlihan, N Cowen	
16 th July J Gorry, K Morris	17 th July R Nesbitt, J Griffiths	18 th July K Francis, Y Downes, J Rowe	20 th July L Yates, G Rooney
23 rd July K Morris, R. Birmingham, L Hill	24 th July R Nesbitt, C Mison	25 th July K Morris, J Wilton,	
30 th July M Goodlad, N Cowen, Y Stevenson	31 st July C Mison, B Hollis		

August 2024

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
		1 st August C Mison, L Reynolds	
6 th August R Nesbitt, P McDonald	7 th August M Goodlad, C Houlihan, G McAteer	8 th August C Houlihan, N Cowen	
13 th August Y Stevenson, M Goodlad, N Cowen	14 th August M Goodlad, C Houlihan, G McAteer	15 th August K Francis, Y Downes, J Rowe	17 th August L Yates, G Rooney
20 th August J Gorry, K Morris	21 st August R Nesbitt, J Griffiths	22 nd August K Morris, J Wilton	
27 th August K Morris, R. Birmingham, L Hill	28 th August R Nesbitt, C Mison	29 th August N Cowen, C Houlihan	

"Our most treasured family heirlooms are our sweet family memories. "

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Postage

Under 500 gms = \$9.00 p&h per book
Over 500gms & under 3kg - \$15.00 p&h for up to 2 books (If ordering more than 2 books contact group for postage costs)

All prices include GST

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery

Books – Weight under 500gms

Coraki Deaths & Burials - \$25.00

West of the Range Cemeteries - \$20.00

Woodburn Cemetery - \$15.00

Recipe Book – 98 pages 400 recipes - \$15.00

Yorklea Public School 1894-1994 - \$5.00

Books – Weight over 500gms & under 3kg

Casino West St Cemetery - \$37.50

Casino Lawn Cemetery - \$37.00

Casino & District Pioneer Register Pre-1900 - \$37.50

Casino & District Pre 1925 Pioneer Register - \$37.50

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Please support our Corporate Members

SECOND-HAND BOOKS FOR SALE

Bridges of Fairymount	\$5.00
Casino - The Rocky Crossing Meeting Place 1855 -2012	\$50.00
Casino School Magazine – Onward 1998	\$2.00
Casino Show – 100 Years	\$10.00
Cheshire's Modern Real Property	\$2.00
Directory of Art & Archaeology	\$3.00
Family History Research Manager	\$3.00

Family History Quotes

"Do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and your children's children."

Author: Deuteronomy 4:9

"But those who came before us will teach you.

They will teach you from the wisdom of former generations."

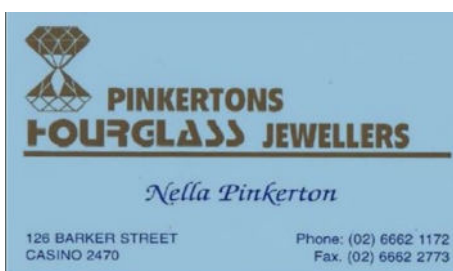
Author: Job 8:10, LB



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